

WE CLAIM:

1. A document management system comprising:
 - (i) a data repository (DR) component comprising a master repository for storing data;
 - (ii) a data replication store (DRS) component comprising one or more local data units for storing data sets, each data set originating at least in part from the data in the logical master repository and comprising information applicable to a corresponding one of the local data units; and
 - (iii) a data management component (DMC) comprising
 - (a) a configuration manager for mapping the data sets to end users of the local data units,
 - (b) a knowledge manager for identifying the data sets, and
 - (c) a binary synchronization service for transferring updated data from the master repository to the one or more local data units.
2. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager further comprises a global knowledge manager and a local knowledge manager.
3. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager further comprises a user interface to enable access by one or more of the end users.
4. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager further comprises an application programming interface to enable access to the knowledge manager by application programs.
5. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the data repository (DR) component further comprises a renderable object manager.

6. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the data repository (DR) component further comprises a content management system.
7. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the data repository (DR) component further comprises a user interface.
8. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the data management component (DMC) further comprises an index crawler.
9. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager further comprises an application programming interface (API) for permitting access by third party applications.
10. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager is coupled to a distribution network for distributing the updated data.
11. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the data replication store (DRS) component further comprises a connected mode coupling at least one of the data units to the data management component (DMC).
12. The document management system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the data units operates in disconnected mode.
13. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge manager further comprises an external application portal.
14. A three-tier document management system for use by an entity comprising a plurality of end user groups, the system comprising:
 - a data repository (DR) tier comprising a content management system for storing data in a master repository;
 - a data replication store (DRS) tier comprising a plurality of data

units which correspond respectively to each of the plurality of end user groups;
and

a data management component (DMC) tier for managing the end user profiles and for mediating the synchronization of data between the data repository (DR) tier and the data replication store (DRS) tier.

15. The document management system of claim 14 wherein the data management component (DMC) tier further comprises a data repository for storing cached data applicable to one or more of the plurality of data units.

16. The document management system of claim 14 further comprising a global knowledge manager for accessing services in the master repository.

17. The document management system of claim 16 further comprising a local knowledge manager for accessing services available in at least one of the plurality of data units.

18. The document management system of claim 14 wherein the data repository (DR) tier is coupled to the data replication store (DRS) tier through a distribution channel.

19. The document management system of claim 18 wherein the distribution channel is coupled to the data management component (DMC) tier.

20. The document management system of claim 19 wherein the data management component (DMC) tier further comprises a synchronization service coupled to the distribution channel for performing data synchronization between the data repository (DR) tier and the data replication store (DRS) tier.

21. The document management system of claim 20 wherein the synchronization service is bidirectional.

22. The document management system of claim 14 wherein user profiles of the plurality of end users in the groups are created at the data management component (DMC) tier.

23. A document management system for managing the storage and transfer of data comprising:

data repository (DR) means for providing a master data repository for storing and managing data;

data replication store (DRS) means for providing one or more data units, each data unit for storing information originating at least in part from the data in the master data repository; and

data management component (DMC) means for maintaining records relevant to a state of each of the one or more data units and for synchronizing the data in the data repository (DR) means with the information in the one or more data units in the data replication store (DRS) means.

24. The document management system of claim 23 wherein the data management component (DMC) means further comprises a configuration manager for mapping data sets to end users of the data units.

25. The document management system of claim 23 wherein the data management component (DMC) means further comprises a global knowledge manager for managing the data in the data repository (DR) means and a local knowledge manager for managing the information in the one or more data units in the data management component (DMC) means.